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Right of peoples to self-determination

The rule of law at the national and international levels

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Letter dated 11 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to write to you in reference to the imminent release of the notorious international terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, by decision of a United States court.

Cuba denounces the complicity and full responsibility of the Government of the United States concerning the release of this individual, who is responsible for the bombing of an aircraft which resulted in the death of 73 people, among countless other acts of terrorism against Cuba and other countries.

This action by the Government of the United States constitutes a flagrant violation of the most fundamental norms of international law, the international treaties on terrorism, to which the United States is a party, and of numerous General Assembly and Security Council resolutions, such as General Assembly resolution 46/51 and Security Council resolution 1373 (2001).

As you are aware, article 7 of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on 23 September 1971, to which the United States is a party, states that "*The Contracting State in the territory of which the alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite him, be obliged, without exception whatsoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution*".

A similar provision is contained in the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, which entered into force on 23 May 2001, and to which the United States is also a party.

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The United States Government has full knowledge and evidence of the countless acts of terrorism committed by Posada Carriles. However, as a smokescreen to allow him to go unpunished, he has simply been indicted for minor immigration offences, and the request for his extradition submitted on 15 June 2005 by the Government of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has been ignored.

I am attaching reflections on this case by the President of the Republic of Cuba, Fidel Castro Ruz (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 66, 80 and 100, and as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ileana **Núñez Mordoche**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

Annex to the letter dated 11 April 2007 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Reflections by the President of the Republic of Cuba Fidel Castro Ruz

A brutal reply

[1 April 2007]

George W. Bush is undoubtedly the most genuine representative of a system of terror forced on the world by the technological, economic and political superiority of the most powerful country known to this planet. For this reason, we share the tragedy of the American people and their ethical values. The instructions for the verdict issued by Judge Kathleen Cardone of the El Paso Federal Court last Friday, granting Luis Posada Carriles freedom on bail, could only have come from the White House.

It was President Bush himself who ignored at all times the criminal and terrorist nature of the defendant who was protected with a simple accusation of immigration violation levelled at him. This is a brutal reply. The Government of the United States and its most representative institutions had already decided to release the monster.

The background is well-known and reaches far back. The people who trained him and ordered him to destroy a Cuban passenger plane in midair, with 73 athletes, students and other Cuban and foreign travellers on board, together with its dedicated crew; those who bought his freedom while the terrorist was held in prison in Venezuela, so that he could supply and practically conduct a dirty war against the people of Nicaragua, resulting in the loss of thousands of lives and the devastation of a country for decades to come; those who enabled him to smuggle drugs and weapons, making a mockery of the laws of Congress; those who collaborated with him to create the terrible Operation Condor and internationalize terror; those who brought about torture, death and often the physical disappearance of hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans, could not possibly act any differently.

Even though Bush's decision was to be expected, it is certainly no less humiliating for our people. Thanks to the revelations of "Por Esto!" a Mexican publication from the state of Quintana Roo later complemented by our own sources, Cuba learned with absolute precision how Posada Carriles entered from Central America, via Cancún and travelled to Isla Mujeres, departing from there on board the Santrina, after the ship was inspected by the Mexican federal authorities, and heading with other terrorists straight to Miami.

Denounced and publicly challenged with exact information on the matter, since April 11, 2005, it took the Government of that country more than a month to arrest the terrorist, and a year and two months to admit that Luis Posada Carriles had entered through the Florida coast illegally on board the Santrina, a presumed school-ship licensed in the United States.

Not a single word is said of his countless victims, of the bombs he set off in tourist facilities in recent years, of his dozens of plans financed by the Government of the United States to physically eliminate me.

It was not enough for Bush to offend the name of Cuba by installing a horrible torture centre similar to Abu Ghraib on the territory illegally occupied in Guantánamo, horrifying the world with this procedure. The cruel actions of his predecessors did not seem to be enough for him. It was not enough to force a poor and underdeveloped country like Cuba to spend $100 billion. To accuse Posada Carriles was tantamount to accusing himself.

Throughout almost half a century, everything was fair game against our small island lying 90 miles away from its coast, wanting to be independent. Florida saw the installation of the largest station for intelligence and subversion that ever existed on this planet.

It was not enough to send a mercenary invasion to the Bay of Pigs, costing us 176 dead and more than 300 wounded at a time when the few medical specialists they left us had no experience treating war wounds. Earlier still, the French ship La Coubre, carrying Belgian weapons and grenades for Cuba, had exploded on the docks of Havana Harbor. The two well synchronized explosions caused the deaths of more than 100 workers and wounded many others as they took part in the rescue attempts.

It was not enough to have the Missile Crisis of 1962, which brought the world to the brink of an all-consuming thermonuclear war, at a time when there were bombs 50 times more powerful than the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

It was not enough to introduce viruses, bacteria and fungi into our country to attack plantations and flocks; and, incredible as it may seem, human beings. Some of these pathogens came out of American laboratories and were brought to Cuba by well-known terrorists in the service of the United States Government.

Add to all this the enormous injustice of keeping five heroic patriots imprisoned for supplying information about terrorist activities; they were fraudulently convicted to sentences amounting to two life sentences, and they stoically withstand cruel mistreatment, each of them in a different prison.

Time and again the Cuban people have fearlessly faced the threat of death. They have demonstrated that with intelligence, using appropriate tactics and strategies, and especially preserving unity around their political and social vanguard, there can be no force on this earth capable of defeating them.

I think that the coming May Day celebration would be the ideal day for our people — using the minimum of fuel and transportation — to show their feelings to the workers and the poor of the world.